I hope that you enjoy your mid-term break and got to recharge the batteries for another busy term ahead.........The following are but some of the events that have taken place in February and more to follow......

SCHOOL CLOSURE DATES

MID TERM BREAK
Our school will be closed on Thursday, Feb. 20th and Friday, Feb 21st.
We will re-open again on Monday, February 24th.

ST PATRICK’S DAY
Our school will be closed on Monday, March 16th and Tuesday, March 17th to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day.

SACRAMENTS

‘DO THIS IN MEMORY MASS’
Sunday, March 15th, 2020
Time: 11am
St. Paul’s Church

FIRST CONFESSION
Tuesday, March 3rd
11.30am
St. Paul’s Church
One parent per child must attend.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATORY MASSES
Our 6th classes are preparing for their Confirmation in May.
As part of this preparation there will be a number of masses whereby the pupil and parents are invited to attend.
The next mass for both parents and pupils will be on March 29th in St. Paul’s Church at 11am.
It is important that all children and at least one parent attend this mass in preparation for their Confirmation Day.

Voluntary Contribution

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL by paying the Voluntary Contribution
Thank you to all those that have already contributed.
Open Sports Night in St. Paul's School

Project: "Healthy Active Sports - A games-based approach to improving inclusion and wellbeing"
2019-1-IE01-KA229-051395

Where: School Halla, St. Paul's National School, Limerick

When: Thursday February 27th at 7.30pm

Who: Parents and Children from our school, local clubs, sports, games and societies.

Proposed Agenda:
Local clubs – swimming, martial arts, football, Gaelic football, hurling, dance etc have been invited to set up a table in our school halla with information about themselves and sign up sheets for parents and children in our school.

The aim of this is to make parents aware of local clubs and activities for their children to increase participation in these activities outside of school. The overall aim is to get children more active both through school activities and outside agencies to increase fundamental movement skills, self-reported levels of social inclusion and overall health and wellbeing of our children. It is also an opportunity for our project to extend into the local community and create home-school links.

A big thank you to our Teachers Ms. Shine and Mr. Hutton for taking on this project.

ATTENDANCE—SICKNESS

During the month of January our attendance rate was 93.4% and to date in Feb we are at 90.7%.

Even though we encourage full attendance, there are quite a number of illnesses going around at the moment e.g. tummy bugs, colds and Flu’s.

If you child is not feeling well, please do not send him/her to school.

Hopefully going forward our weather will improve, thus improving the health of our pupils.

ARRIVING LATE: All lateness is marked on our school system. Could you please ensure that your child arrives on time for school. The bell goes at 8.25am, all children should be in their line at the time.

If your child does arrive late, he/she must NOT enter via Reception. All Juniors to 1st enter through the top yard and all 2nd to 6th class enter via the bottom yard.

INTERNET SAFETY DAY

Every family in the school received a copy of the excellent booklet ‘Parents' Guide to A Better Internet’.

Please take time to read this comprehensive resource. You can also download for free from the following site https://www.webwise.ie/guides-parents/

Rang a 3 to rang a 6 also attended a workshop in school on Monday February 17th on the topics of cyber bullying and internet safety. Keeping our children safe online is a priority for us all in these increasingly technological times.

Thanks to our teacher, Ms. Hayes, for organising this event in our school.
ROBOTICS WORKSHOP

Mr. Walsh’s 6th class were selected to participate in the Analog Devices Primary School Robotics Workshop which took place on January 27th.

Analog very kindly sponsored the full cost of the event which offered students an opportunity to learn about electronics and robotics by building their own robots. The workshop was run by Learn it Educational Solutions.

OLIVIA EDWARDS LOPEZ, CARL DASCO AND OLIVIA HERLIHY were the OVERALL WINNERS on the day and will now go forward to represent St. Paul’s in the County Finals which will take place on Saturday, Feb. 29th in Analog Devices European Research and Development Centre in Raheen.

RUNNERS UP on the day were DAVID O’SULLIVAN, KACPER ZAK AND SADHBH BARRETT.

It was a very educational workshop and we thank both Analog and Learn it Education Solutions.

Check out more pictures in the app under Class Activities, Sixth Class under Mr. Walsh.

ROBOTIC WORKSHOP
MR. WALSH’S 6th CLASS

WINNING TEAM

RUNNERS UP

OLIVIA EDWARDS LOPEZ, CARL DASCO, OLIVIA HERLIHY

DAVID O’SULLIVAN, KACPER ZAK, SADHBH BARRETT

TRIP TO ARDNACRUSHA

Ms. Barron’s 6th class went to Ardnacrusha in January. They learned all about hydro power and how important it is in today’s world to use renewable energy sources. It was a very educational trip.

See pics under Ms. Barron’s 6th class page.
Great news from Old Christians where the INDOOR HURLING TEAM won all their games today (5 out of 5)

Well done Alex Finucane, Caoimhin Dwane, Cian Dobbie, Flynn Kelly, Keelin Daly, Mark Neligan, Padraig Murphy

ÉPÉE FENCING

Big CONGRATS to Yushen in Mr. Kirby’s 5th class who became the U-12 national champion in Épée fencing in Dublin at the weekend.

This is his 2nd time winning it and he is still underage next year......

An épée is a heavy-thrusting sword.

Épée Fencing is the most defensive, requiring high skills to stop an opponent attempting to score a point. Counter moves are crucial.

KICKBOXING

Kayleigh McMahon in Mr. Kirby’s 5th class was Kickboxing in Waterford on Sunday, February 16th and she won her category the under 40kg weight.

In doing so she’s after qualifying to represent Ireland in the World Championships which will take place next October in the UK. She has been kickboxing since she was 7 and is a member of Limerick Combat Gym in Roxboro.

WELL DONE KAYLEIGH...what a great achievement
During the month of February all the children in St Paul’s N.S. will be taking part in our Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) and Stay Safe programmes.

There are five topics in the Stay Safe Programme covering:

- Feeling Safe and Unsafe
- Friendship and Bullying
- Touches
- Secrets and Telling
- Strangers

In RSE children learn about their own development and about their friendships and relationships with others …they learn to listen, to communicate to have compassion and consideration for others. Children learn about relationships and sexuality in ways that help them to think and act in a moral, caring and responsible way. At primary level RSE is mostly about family and friendship relationships, but children can use the same skills – of knowing how they feel, of being able to express how they feel, of being able to resolve disagreements constructively, of listening to others and seeing the point of view of others – in adult and sexual relationships when they are older.

At primary and post-primary level RSE is taught as part of SPHE, which teaches children:

- respect for themselves and others,
- valuing their differences from others and their similarities to others
- keeping healthy- healthy eating, exercise and knowing about their body
- growing and the changes that take place in their body; being aware of their feelings and how to deal with them
- to make healthy and responsible choices, to help him/her to create and maintain supportive relationships and become an active and responsible citizen in society.

All of the materials are age appropriate and follow Department of Education guidelines for the topic. There will be an opportunity for home / school links as an integral part of the programme and we encourage parents/guardians, as the primary educators of their children, to avail of this opportunity to engage with their children on the content. To facilitate parental involvement and inclusion, there is a specific section for parents on the Stay Safe website, www.staysafe.ie the link to this site is available on the school app.

The sensitive lesson was taught during the period February 10th to 14th.
CONGRATULATIONS to all our teams who represented our school so well at the Credit Union Quiz on January 31st. 27 teams from 6 national schools took part in this event which was held in Mungret GAA Hall.

Big CONGRATS to our U11 team who won Category A section.

Our winning team comprised of Pádraig Murphy (Mr. T O’Brien’s 4th Class), Christian Stack (Mr. Kirby’s 5th Class), Alex Finucane (Ms. O’Dea’s 4th class), Mark Neligan (Ms. O’Dea’s 4th class) who will now represent MPCC Credit Union in the Chapter Final which will take place on Friday, February 28th at 6.30pm in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick.

Both winners and runners-up at Chapter Level go on to the National Final in Dublin on Sunday, April 5.

The winners got a ‘Winners’ Plaque’ for the school as well as the individual awards plus certs.

Again well done to all who took part. You did both yourselves and your school proud.

Thank you to Mr. Carroll for taking the time to organise this event for our school.
January 31st, 2020 marked the official opening of St Paul’s new school.

The ceremony began with an opening speech by the Chairperson of the BOM, John Coady followed by speeches (in no particular order) from Principal, John Tuohy, Patron of Catholic Schools, Bishop Brendan Leahy, Mayor of Limerick, City and County, Michael Sheahan, Rose of Tralee, Sinead Flanagan (former pupil of St. Paul’s) and John Moran CEO and founder of RHH International (a pupil of the first graduating class of St. Paul’s School).

We were honoured to have Bishop Brendan Leahy bless our amazing new school and Sinead Flanagan cut the ribbon.

Also in attendance were Staff (past and present), Board of Management members (past and present) family of former Principals, Local Clergy, Fr. Noel Murphy and Fr. John Leonard, Parents’ Association members, Politicians, Dept of Education personnel, Our builder and Architect, Primary and Secondary School Principals and many more locally invited guests. It was an important and exciting day for our school and we would like to thank all those who attended and everybody that made this occasion happen.

Check out the app and website for more pictures and a video of the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.
Melissa has a broad range of knowledge and skills relating to medieval crafts such as textile-spinning, dance, song, weaving and sewing during the Viking and Norman periods.

Ruth is a storyteller and author with a particular interest in folklore, traditional crafts and healing plants.

During David’s school visit, Irish archaeology was animated for the children as they experienced an engaging demonstration on domestic and military life during Cromwellian Ireland and the War of Independence.

Many thanks to our teacher Mr. P. O’Brien for organising these workshops.

GRANDPARENTS DAY

Ms. Hayes’ 2nd class really enjoyed Grandparent’s Day in our school recently as part of Catholic Schools week.
They talked about how they addressed their grandparents—from Nana, Grandad, Granny and Grandpa to Bacia and Dziedek.
They told stories and made some lovely cards for them all.